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BREAD LOAF WRITERS' CONFERENCE

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THE BREAD LOAF WRITERS' CONFERENCE

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Cover: BREAD LOAF MOUNTAIN FROM COVERED BRIDGE

Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Eleventh Annual Session

August 20-September 3, 1936

Sponsored by

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

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PURPOSE

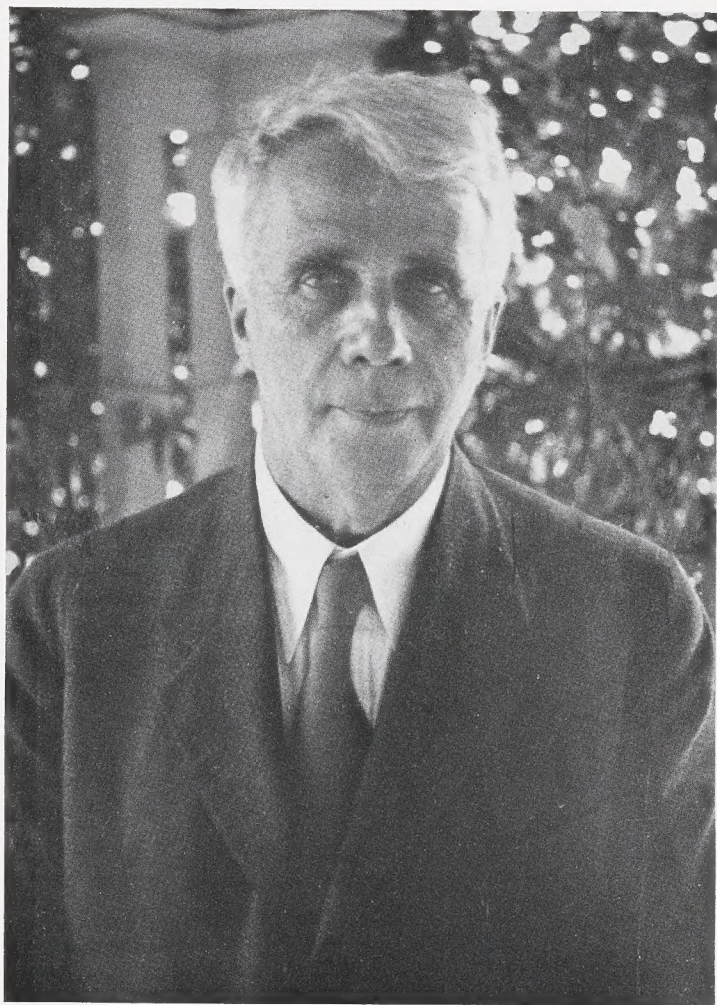
THE Bread Loaf Writers' Conference exists for two purposes:

(1) To bring together for exchange of ideas and for profitable and pleasant association a group of well-known writers, editors, critics, and teachers;

(2) To provide for people anxious to make progress as writers an opportunity to obtain in pleasant and stimulating surroundings the advice and criticism of the eminent professionals who compose the Bread Loaf staff.

With the session of 1936, the eleventh annual session, Bread Loaf will enter on its second decade of service to prospective writers. The Conference was inaugurated in the summer of 1926 under the directorship of John Farrar, now a well-known New York publisher. It enjoyed the sympathy and support of such preëminent American literary figures as Robert Frost and Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and it has continued to attract year by year a staff of widely known and highly qualified writers, editors, critics, and teachers.

As far as its service to prospective writers is concerned, the Conference aims primarily to advise them in regard to definite literary problems and to help them, if possible, to improve in mastery of whatever form of writing they desire to cultivate. If the Conference succeeds in this aim, it considers that its work is justified. But it also tries to provide



Robert Frost

reliable advice about practical matters of publication, and is glad, when opportunity offers, to bring material which members of the staff think publishable to the notice of appropriate book publishers or magazine editors. In order that advice about publication may be as thoroughly informed and experienced as possible, a trusted literary agent is invited to be a member of the staff.

PERSONNEL

(1) A permanent staff of writers, editors, and critics who are present at Bread Loaf for the duration of the Conference, and who give background talks and round-table discussions on the main forms of writing, supplemented by personal interviews for the criticism of manuscript.

(2) Visiting speakers, whether prominent authors, publishers, or critics, who come to Bread Loaf to talk with the staff or to lecture to the Conference as a whole.

STAFF FOR 1936

THE staff is so selected that workers in each of the main branches of writing may obtain competent criticism and advice. At the same time the professional experience of the staff as a whole is so various that its members can deal with a very wide range of literary problems. The classification below is purely informal and in no way restrictive. It merely suggests the branch of writing to which in general each staff member will give his main attention.

Fiction

BERNARD DeVOTO, author of novels, short stories, articles; contributor of the Easy Chair department to *Harper's*; author of *Mark Twain's America*, *We Accept with Pleasure*, etc.

JULIA PETERKIN, Pulitzer Prize winner in the novel; author of *Scarlet Sister Mary*, etc.

JOSEPHINE JOHNSON, Pulitzer Prize winner in the novel; author of *Now in November* (novel), *Winter Orchard* (short stories); contributor of poems to the *Atlantic*, *Hound and Horn*, etc.

EDITH MIRRIELES, Professor of English, Stanford University; authority on the short story; author of *Writing the Short Story*, etc.

HELEN EVERITT, New York literary agent.

GEORGE STEVENS, Managing Editor, *Saturday Review of Literature*.

Plays

JOHN MASON BROWN, Dramatic Critic of the *New York Evening Post*; formerly Associate Editor of the *Theatre Arts Monthly*; author of *The Modern Theatre in Revolt*, etc.

Verse

ROBERT HILLYER, Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry; author of *Collected Verse*, representing seven preceding volumes; teacher of the famous courses in Harvard formerly conducted by Dean Briggs.

Essays, Articles, Criticism

GORHAM B. MUNSON, editor, biographer, teacher; Lecturer at the New School for Social Research, New York; author of critical and biographical studies of Robert Frost and Waldo Frank, and of other books.

Director of the Conference

THEODORE MORRISON, formerly Associate Editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*; author of *Notes of Death and Life* (poems), etc.

Note: Helen Everitt, literary agent, will act as Publication Adviser to the Conference.

Edith Mirrielees will be present at the Conference for the first week only.

Visiting Speakers

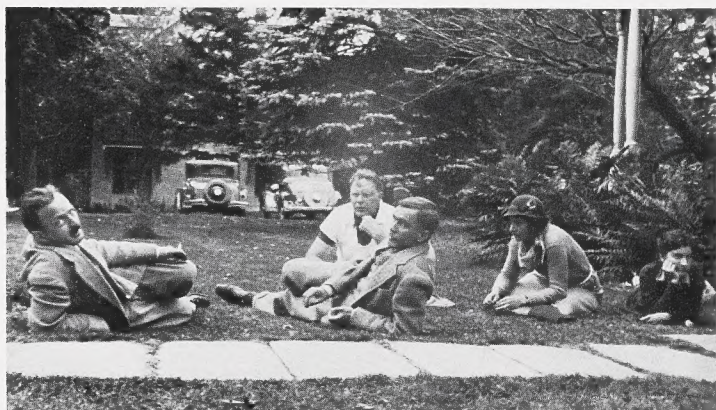
The Conference has always been able to congratulate itself on its visitors, who come sometimes for only a day or part of a day, sometimes for longer periods. This year our visitors will include:

ROBERT FROST, poet.

JOHN FARRAR, New York publisher and founder of the Conference.

RAYMOND EVERITT, editorial representative in New York of Little, Brown & Co.

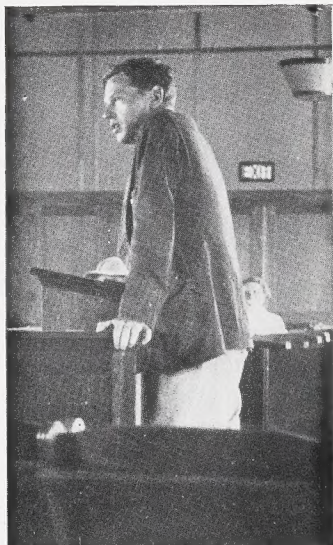
Mr. Everitt has distinguished himself both as a publisher and as a literary agent. His unusual experience qualifies him in high degree to advise prospective writers. He has served several times on the Bread Loaf staff and it is expected that he will be present during much if not all of the session of 1936.



Relaxation-- Owen Lattimore, Hervey Allen, Theodore Morrison
Mrs. Morrison, Josephine Johnson



Theodore Morrison and
John Crowe Ransom



George Stevens
Lecturing

PROGRAM

(1) In the morning, members of the staff will give lectures or hold open discussions on the various forms of writing—fiction, long and short; essays and articles; playwriting; verse; etc.

(2) In the afternoon, no regular program is scheduled. Personal interviews for manuscript criticism may be arranged by staff members; otherwise members of the Conference are free for exploration of the country, for work, or for discussion.

(3) In the evenings, visiting speakers or members of the staff will address the Conference, or a general entertainment will be provided.

ADMISSION

Four classes of membership will be offered:

(1) *Fellows*.

The *fellows* will constitute the most advanced group in the Conference membership. They will consist of writers of marked promise, who have some degree of definite achievement already to their credit. To be eligible for admission as *fellows*, writers must first be recommended to the Director of the Conference by a publisher, magazine editor, prominent writer, or well-known teacher.

A limited number of *fellows* will be accepted at the expense of the Conference, which will pay all their regular fees (board, room, and tuition; travelling expenses ordinarily excluded). Other qualified candidates will be welcome to come on payment of the regular fees, or may in some cases make special arrangements with the Director. The Conference desires to be as liberal as it can in enabling promising writers to come to Bread Loaf.

The *fellows* as a group will have equal privileges. They may bring published or unpublished work for criticism by staff members, and should be able to profit richly by the unusual opportunities they will enjoy of association with the Staff and with each other.

(2) *Contributors*.

Any man or woman who desires literary advice or criticism may apply for admission to the Conference. With the application should be submitted examples of published or unpublished work. Applicants who by their experience in writing are prepared to profit by the regular program of the Conference will be admitted as *contributors*. They may attend all lectures and open discussions, and will be given interviews with appropriate staff members for personal consultation and criticism of manuscript.

(3) *Students.*

Applicants who, in the judgment of the Director and his assistants, are not ready to profit fully by the usual program of the Conference, will be admitted as *students*. They will be placed under the supervision of designated staff members, who will make such suggestions and give such advice as may be of help to writers not yet prepared to enroll as contributors.

(4) *Auditors.*

Those who do not wish to submit manuscript for criticism may be admitted as auditors. All general discussions and lectures will be open to them. Teachers of college composition will find the Conference a remarkable opportunity to hear professional discussion of many different forms of writing by leading contemporaries, and will find it convenient for this purpose to enroll as auditors.

How to Apply for Admission

(*Note:* The following directions naturally do not apply to candidates for admission as *fellows*.)

(1) Write for application blanks to Richard L. Brown, Esq., Middlebury, Vermont.

(2) Fill out and return your application blank, and with it submit examples of published or unpublished work. As much may be submitted as you feel necessary fairly to represent the range and quality of your work; but after this necessity has been satisfied, applicants should keep the amount of work submitted within bounds.

All manuscript must be clearly typed, and will be returned only if accompanied by full postage or clear directions for return by express collect. Precautions should be taken to provide a full and clear address on all manuscript as well as in correspondence. All manuscript should be addressed to Mr. Brown. (*Do not* write Bread Loaf on manuscript submitted in applying for admission.)

(3) As promptly as possible after you have filled out and



Bread Loaf Little Theatre and Library

returned your application blank and have submitted examples of your work, you will be notified whether, in the judgment of the Director and his assistants, it is desirable that you should enroll as a *Contributor* or as a *Student*.

(4) Any man or woman may enroll as *Auditor* on payment of the fees.

Note: The purpose of asking prospective members of the Conference to submit examples of their work at the time of application is to enable the Director and his assistants to

plan the work of the Conference more intelligently and fairly by determining, as far as they can, which writers in the group are more and which are less advanced. Classification, either as a *Contributor* or as a *Student*, should not be taken to imply either a favorable or unfavorable judgment of the applicant's promise as a writer; nor should it be taken as an indication of the sort of criticism which the applicant should expect from staff members after reaching Bread Loaf.

No criticism will be given before the Conference begins of work submitted in the course of applying for admission. To give criticism in advance would be to anticipate the service for which the Conference exists, and would turn it into a sort of literary correspondence school, the very opposite of the kind of enterprise it seeks to be.

The Conference assumes that those who apply for admission are, for adequate personal reasons, in search of impartial literary advice and experienced criticism. It seeks to provide a time, congenial surroundings, and able advisers for the performance of this service. It makes no claim that it can teach anyone to write. It believes that it can make possible a stimulating, friendly, and enjoyable association between a group of men and women who desire to make literary progress and a group of professionals who have already achieved marked success. The Conference tries to be both friendly, helpful, and absolutely honest. The degree to which the members of the Conference profit by it will depend upon the extent to which they can profit by candid criticism and stimulating associations.

PRIZES

As a reward of merit, and as evidence that Bread Loaf is anxious to attract the most promising young writers, three prizes will be offered to *Contributors* and three to *Students* for excellent unpublished work in any literary form. The judges will be members of the staff, and the prizes will take



Front Porch--Bread Loaf Inn
George Stevens, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. John M. Brown, Theodore Hall,
Mrs. Bernard DeVoto, Allene Corliss

the form of a reduction of tuition—a reduction of \$25.00 for *Contributors* and of \$15.00 for *Students*.

FEES

(1) For *Contributors* and *Students*:

The charge for membership in the Conference for *Contributors* and *Students* is \$100.00, plus the charge for room in the Bread Loaf Inn. The fee of \$100.00 includes charges for tuition and board for the duration of the Conference. Rooms may be had at a cost of \$8.00 to \$42.00 for the full term. All correspondence in regard to rooms should be addressed to Mrs. Pamela S. Powell, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, and a deposit of \$20.00 should be made with her before August 1.

(2) For *Auditors*:

The fee for auditors is \$75.00 plus room charges.

RECREATION AND SURROUNDINGS

Mountain-climbing, horse-back riding, tennis, and other games are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf Inn. Golf courses are available at Middlebury, Brandon, or farther afield; and swimming at Lake Dunmore.

Bread Loaf Inn is a hotel of picturesque history and exceptional situation. It stands in the midst of one of the most magnificent forest tracts in the Eastern states. It is well up in the Green Mountains, which overlook the Champlain Valley. The nearest community, a few miles down the road, is the village of Ripton, where old-fashioned square dancing thrives with great vitality and annually attracts visitors from Broad Loaf.



Bread Loaf Pass

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH
CONDUCTED BY MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

ROBERT M. GAY, Director

JULY 2 — AUGUST 16, 1936

The School of English offers graduate courses in the art of teaching, creative writing, English and American Literature, and play production. The work is planned for those seeking the M. A. degree and for high school teachers of English.

For bulletins and information address H. G. OWEN, Dean, Middlebury, Vermont

